

TOWN OF SOMERS EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**Thursday,
April 4, 2024
8:00 AM
Fire Station**

1. Call to Order – 8:01 AM
2. Members Present – Todd Rolland, John Roache, Karen Hocking, Dan Thayer, Peter Debrino.

Other guests include Police Administrator Kim Littig and Human Services Director Matthew Cox.

3. Old Business
 - a. Sanitarian – Nothing to report.
 - b. Social Services – Fuel assistance programs have ended for the season and will restart in the fall. The Renter’s Rebate program launched on 04/01/2024, and we will assist with applications through October 1st.
The Angel Fund is wrapping up. We are hiring a retired probate judge to serve as a “special master” to help us and the families adequately plan for financial needs, transition funds to trust accounts, etc.
Due to a snafu with funding at the state and regional level for Meals on Wheels, meals will be reduced by 50% starting April 8th. This results from the meal vendor exhausting ARPA funds allocated to expand the program. We are working to identify the needs of participating seniors and alternatives to ensure they have the food support they need.
Drug Take Back Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 27th, at the fire station in collaboration with SFD and SPD.
Planning is underway for the annual National Night Out event on August 6th.
Matthew asked the group to consider ideas and options for using the Opioid Settlement funds coming to the town. Prevention, outreach, and community education are all options.
 - c. Police – Calls for service 1,070, Traffic Accidents 4, DWIs 0, Case Reports 5 Burglaries 1, Criminal Arrests 3.
National Prescription Drug Take Back is Saturday, April 27th. From 10 am to 1 pm, it will take place at Somers Fire Department, 400 Main Street, in cooperation with Human Services, Fire Department, and Police Department personnel.
TIM’s training – Four Police Officers attended a class in Ellington last Saturday. Five other Police Officers are scheduled to attend this Saturday’s class.
Somers Police will be recognized by POSTC (Police Officer Standards and Training Council) at an upcoming Council meeting as having attained the State’s Tier 1 Accreditation Status.

- d. Fire – Calls for service continue to be high.
Fire/EMS staffing continues to be a challenge.
Chief Roach's last day is May 3.
The generator switch is in and is scheduled to be replaced next week.
We continue to attempt to obtain three acres of property from the Department of Correction to install a two-way radio communication tower to provide better two-way radio coverage in that area of town.
- e. DPW – There was one tree-down event in March.
We are in spring operations. We are getting fields ready for play and will begin road-sweeping operations soon.
- f. Schools – Unavailable.
- g. CERT- CERT members completed First Aid, CPR, AED, and Stop-The-Bleed training in March—many thanks to the Fire Department members who provided this training.
Over the next three months, CERT members will learn how to tie knots, carry injured persons, and trail safety.
This training will culminate with a live exercise on the trails of Aya Po.

4. New Business

- a. General Discussion - Dan Thayer (Communications) requested that BOE file our broadcasting license renewal with the FCC to maintain our WDJJ license. The BOE is the licensee.
5. Approval of Minutes – Dan Thayer motioned to approve the March Minutes, which Peter Debrino seconded; all were in favor. The motion passed.
6. Adjournment—Dan Thayer motioned to adjourn the meeting, which Peter Debrino seconded; all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 AM.